

ALASKAN TOKEN COLLECTOR

POLAR NUMISMATIST

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Volney Richmond, Jr. and his mother, Mrs. Volney Richmond, Sr., greeted visitors at the N C Trading Post on the A-67 grounds. Mrs. Richmond, Sr., who is 83, had not been to Alaska for thirty years. Above, Leona Blair, Fairbanks store, and Mary Stock, a long-time Alaska resident, were kept busy in the Trading Post on opening day of the A-67 Exposition.



Alaska '67 Exposition Opened; N C Trading Post Big Success

Despite rainy weather, the Alaska '67 Exposition kicked off to a running start and stacked up nearly 20,000 in attendance on the weekend of May 27. There was lots of ribbon cutting for many openings and lots of people to cut them and witness the ceremonies.

More than 100 dignitaries—from Fairbanks and other Alaskan cities, Seattle, and Washington, D.C.—attended the ceremonies that progressed

from the Pioneer Museum to N C's Trading Post.

Greeting the dignitaries at the Trading Post were Mr. and Mrs. Volney Richmond, Jr. and Mrs. Volney Richmond, Sr. After a tour of the store, the Richmonds and the official opening party proceeded on for the rest of the opening ceremonies. At the U.S. Pavilion, Senator Howard Pollock and Judge Vernon Forbes, Fairbanks, cut the opening ribbon.

Luncheon followed, with Mrs. Walter Hickel, wife of the governor, the official hostess.

The N C Trading Post is one of the most popular exhibits on the Fair Grounds. The store has not only the color and authenticity of early-day Alaska, but even the smell and furnishings of the old posts.

Centrally located in the floor space is a coffee grinder, hand-powered with crank and fly wheel, that stands an estimated six feet tall. In an accompanying bin a stock of roasted whole coffee beans awaits grinding.

(Continued on page 2)

(continued on page 19)

North of 60°

South of 50°

EDITORIAL

2000 MINTAGES

We have had this copy of the N.C. Co. Flag in our files for some time now. We just didn't know how to make use of it. With the wonders of modern technology, we decided to scan in the front and second page to give you an idea what the Alaska '67 Exposition was like.

In an unfortunate occurrence, it's season was shortened by the 1967 flood that occurred in August. Note the opening sentence of the article: "Despite rainy weather...." Ominous foreboding of what was ahead.

We finally remember to publish the mintages for the year 2000 official state medals in this issue. And, the prices realized from our March auction are also shown, noting bid reductions and the amount of \$\$\$ we saved our mail bidders.

As always, we are in need of articles for this newsletter. We have several non-Alaskan articles that we can use, but we would like to keep an emphasis on Alaska and Yukon. Failing anyone contributing an article (or suggesting one that we can do), we will start to use non-Alaskan lead articles, and include smaller items of Alaskan interest.

We will be flying to San Diego the first weekend in May for the final seminar with Kenton before he comes home. He will graduate the program, and after that, he will have a high school graduation with the other students that have complete high school while in the program. We will return home with Kenton after the seminar, and he will begin “life’s seminar.” Again, if you know a family with a teen in crisis, please contact me.

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Below are the mintages for the Official Alaska State Medals as reported by the Alaska Mint.

SILVER:

OUR CURRENT PRICE

2 oz.	361	n/a
1 oz. proof	9,751	\$35.00
1 oz. matte	1,330	\$20.00
1/2 oz.	1,363	\$12.00
1/4 oz.	1742	\$10.00
1/10 oz.	2010	\$8.00
1/20 oz.	1397	\$8.00

GOLD:

3 oz.	16	n/a
1 oz.	187	n/a
1/2 oz.	104	n/a
1/10 oz.	291	\$100.00
1/20 oz.	141	\$75.00

Please include an additional \$3 per order for shipping and insurance.

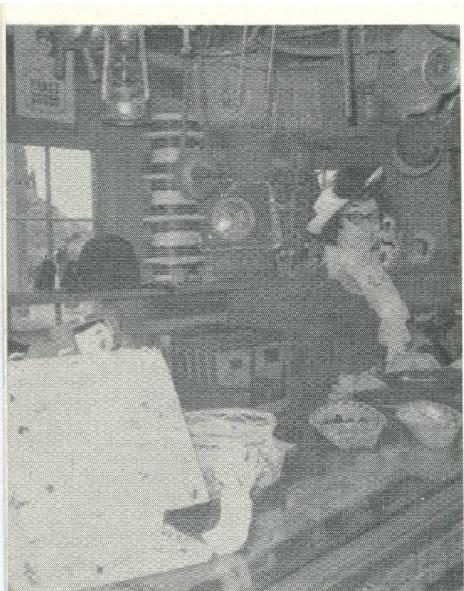
NEAT OUTFITTERS TOKEN

This is a neat token, but I don't have any fantasies that it is from the gold rush era. However, can anyone give us the dates of operation for the Pacific Outfitting Co.??

The lot description that follows is from eBay. "This lot consists of a neat 38mm diameter trade token from SEATTLE, Washington. Obverse reads as follows; **GOOD CLOTHING FOR MEN WOMEN BOYS AND GIRLS, PACIFIC OUTFITTING CO. 1221 3RD AVE SEATTLE // GOOD AS U.S. COIN** (Eagle that resembles the Presidential seal Eagle), **FOR \$1.00 ON ANY PURCHASE.** This firm was a major player in supplying goods during the Alaska/Yukon Gold Rush."



N.C. FLAG, cont.



Lorene McKenzie, above, from the Fairbanks store, helped out on opening day. Relics gathered from all parts of Alaska hang from the ceiling. On the counter are Indian birch baskets from the village of Minto, which is close to Fairbanks. Below, Jerry Saied will be spending her summer vacation working at the Trading Post. Here she is at an antique desk with an old lamp. On the wall is an old telephone, one of the many relics to add interest to the museum collection.



A stick candy display, second to none, offers a fascinating choice of flavors for sweet-toothed visitors.

In the olden-day Northern trade post manner, much of the merchandise is hung from overhead beams, including a collection of factory-made sled dog collars that range from large to extra large in size. It seems that even among work dogs there were giants in those days.

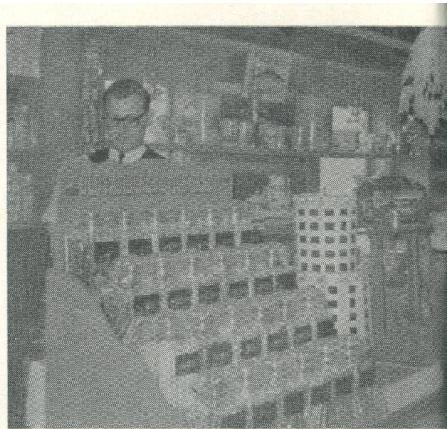
It seems that even among work dogs there were giants in those days.

And as many of the merchandise transactions of the time represented were by barter, there is a collection of gold scales on which miners' customers' dust and nuggets could be calculated in terms of dollars and cents.

The fur display came from Fort Yukon, the oldest trading post on Alaska's greatest river, the Yukon. The collection includes mink, marten, fox, lynx, otter, wolverine and white weasel.

Early communications are represented by both wall-hung and desk type telephones, complete with exposed bells and crank.

Lending further early-1900 atmosphere are the colorful costumes of the manager and clerks.



David Schwantes sold 6,000 sticks of old-fashioned candy on opening day. If quantity is any criteria, this was one of the most popular items at the Fair.

The A-67 Exposition will continue on to September, and **Don Vogwill**, Alaska 67 president, expected tourist crowds to increase as schools let out for the summer. All in all, it looks like a busy summer for Fairbanks, Alaska.

THE NC FLAG Staff

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Summer, 1967

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NCCo FLAG

Alaska '67 Exposition was a big event for Fairbanks in 1967. The Northern Commercial company participated by opening a trading post exhibit. As indicated in the "house" publication, the trading post was a big hit and very popular attraction at the exhibition. The trading post was not the only way that the N.C. Company celebrated the Purchase Centennial. They also issued clearly marked replica's of their circulating tokens.

(continued on page 20)

N.C. FLAG, cont.



These tokens were cast in base metal. We have seen the \$1 token in gold, bronze and silver finishes. We have seen the 50 cents token in bronze and silver finishes, but they were probably also done with a gold finish. Unfortunately, we do not have any of these for sale at present.

Acquired in a collection, with the above pieces, was, for lack of a better term, a counterfeit of Benice 4a, apparently cast from an original. It is done with a gold or brass finish. Is it possible that this piece was an experiment before the N.C. Company settled on the above format?



Several years ago, we tried to find out the mintages, etc. of these pieces. But since the Northern Commercial Company sold their retail stores to Nordstroms, and Nordstroms (and Nordstroms has even left Fairbanks), there was no one to contact. We did try N.C. Machinery, but no one there could help. Perhaps someone in the Seattle area might be able to do a little digging.

The official A-67 medal has the logo on the obverse with the legend "Pioneer Memorial Park, North to the Future, Fairbanks, Alaska." The reverse bears the legend "Official Purchase from Russia Centennial Site." Interesting since the transfer took place in Sitka, and the area around Fairbanks was a flood plain! The re-

verse also has scenes from the Park: Mining, the River-boat Nenana, cabins, a small locomotive, a moose and caribou. It is interesting to note that when my wife and I arrived in Fairbanks in 1974, there was still a "zoo" with moose, caribou, wolves and bears. This was discontinued a few years later, and this area is now a playground.

We have silver and bronze sets of these medals (illustrated below) for \$8 and bronze singles for \$3.



Another interesting piece is the Alaskaland Exposition 50 cents token (31mm, brass). We are told that the legend "Asirtsiquq Atiliruni" is Yupik Eskimo, translating roughly "good - in trade." Can anyone think of another medal or token using the Yupik language? We have these brass medals available for \$7.50.



The final "A-67" item we have for sale was offered in the January issue. It is a neat, plastic encapsulated token with flakes of gold. Please refer to that issue for a full description. These are \$5 each.

Please include \$3 shipping per order.

PRICES REALIZED, MARCH AUCTION

Below are the prices realized from our March 24th auction. Lots won by mail bidders are marked by an mb. Lots that were reduced from the high bid are marked with an *.

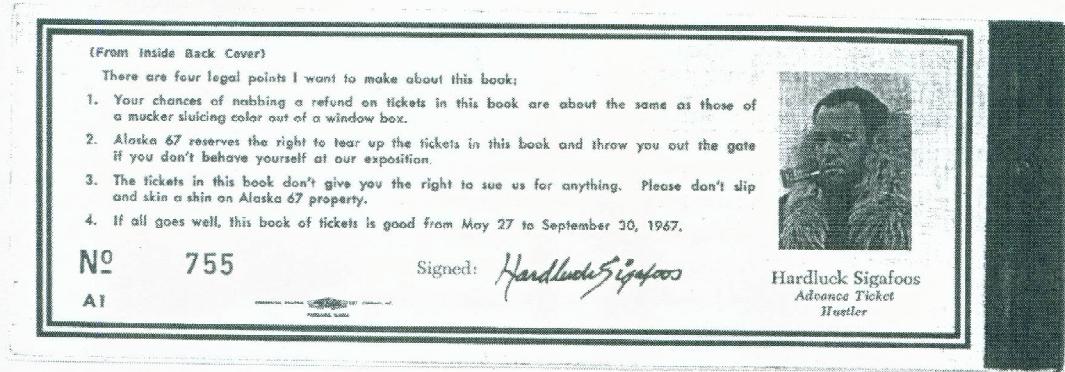
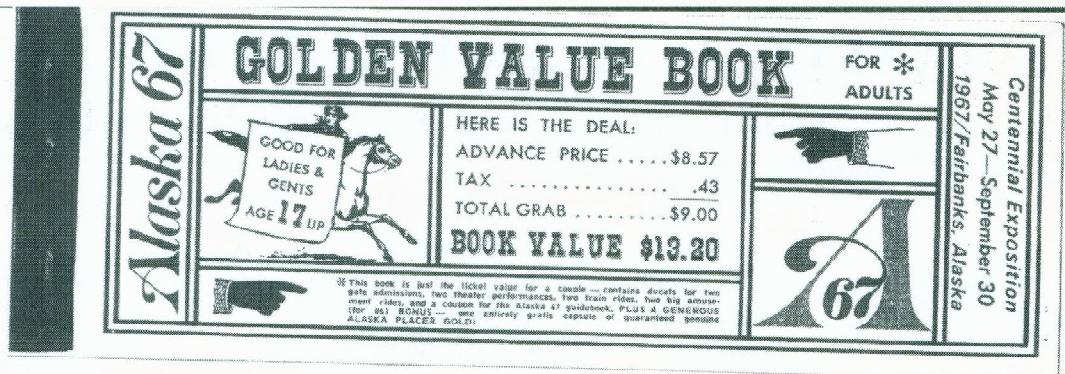
Lot	Bid	Lot	Bid
214 Alaska Token lot	175mb*	245 Nome, B-13a	120mb*
215 Alaska Central Railway, B-C1a	100mb*	246 Nome, B-41, aluminum set	180mb*
216 Anchorage, B-1b+	30mb*	247 Palmer, ARRC set	320
217 Anchorage, B-7 a and b	45mb*	248 Petersburg, B-7 a and b	90mb*
218 Anchorage, B-22a	135mb*	249 Selavik, B-1 set of 3	85mb*
219 Bering River, B-1 a and b	185mb*	250 Seward, B-3b	275mb*
220 Brooks, B-5a	150mb*	251 Seward B-8, two varieties	40
221 Cleary, Solly's, unlisted	410mb*	252 Seward, B-10aii	165mb*
222 Craig, JRS 5 cents unlisted	535mb*	253 Sitka, B-3b	80mb*
223 Craig, JRS 25 cents unlisted	550mb*	254 Skagway, B-16 complete set of 8	120mb*
224 Fairbanks, B-30a	225mb*	255 (Skagway) B-19a	38mb*
225 Fairbanks, B-51a	225mb*	256 Snug Harbor, B-2a	115mb*
226 Haines, B-1b	302mb*	257 Wrangell, B-3a	60mb*
227 Haines, B-2a	375mb*	258 Yukokakat, B-1a	280mb*
228 Haines, B-2b	260mb*	259 Encased Cent, Raineer Beer	80mb*
229 Haines, B-3a	110mb*	260 Encased Cent, Garnick	76mb*
230 Haines, B-4a	210mb*	261 Fairbanks Pioneer Memorial Park medals	20
231 Haines, B-7a	310mb*	262 1967 Alaska Medals	25
232 Haines, Heller & Co. Dies	210mb*	263 Haines Trade Dollars	45mb
233 Haines, B-8a	220mb*	264 State of Alaska Medals	95
234 Haines, B-9a	590mb*	265 1993 1/10 oz. gold AK medal	85
235 Haines, B-10a	230mb*	266 Yukon Quest Medals	45
236 Haines, B-11a	400mb*	267 "A-67" nugget and diamond pin	50
237 Haines, B-12a	170mb*	268 1949 Milepost	200mb
238 Hyder, B-4 a and b	225mb*	Bid reductions totalled: \$2333	
239 Juneau, B-12iii	101mb	As usual, a strong auction for mail bidders.	
240 Juneau, B-28a	310mb*		
241 Juneau, B-58a	290mb*		
242 Latouche, B-2a	130mb*	Note: Lew Egnew pointed out that this token was struck with the same dies as B-8eii, but without the clover leaf punch out.	
243 Nome, B-6b	240mb*		
244 Nome, B-8 unlisted (see note below)	460mb*		

PAPER POTPOURRI

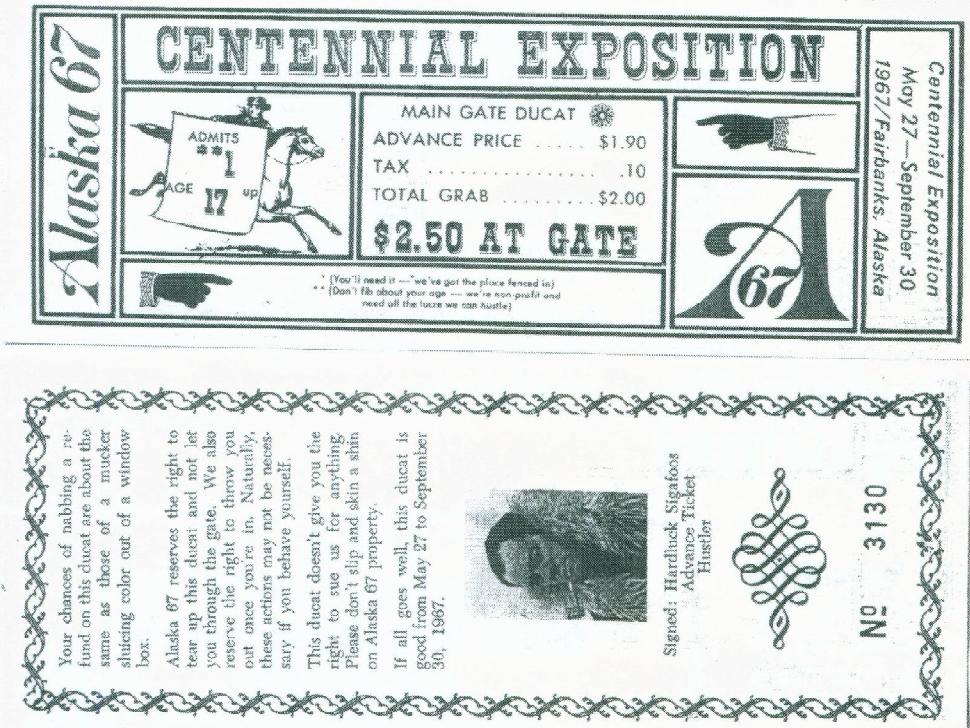
Elmendorf AFB and Ft. Richardson:
 AAFES (Army Air Force Exchange Service), Cappuccino Punch Card, Buy 10 Cappuccino's at .99, Get 11th Free. Black ink on yellow card. 45mm by 102mm. (submitted by Bryan E. Cleary - thanks Bryan, this has been here a while!).



MORE A-67!



Value book cover, front and back: Red, brown and gold printing on gray paper. Actual size 185 by 63mm.

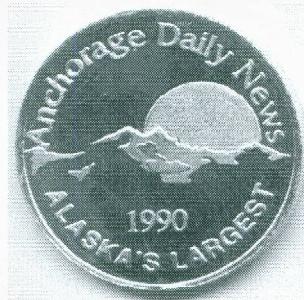


Admission ticket, front and back: Red, brown and gold printing on yellow paper. Approximate size 171 by 64mm. (submitted by Kurtis Hawk -I think it was Kurtis. The notes on the photocopies look like his writing).

Please note the interesting humor present on both the booklet cover and the ticket!

ONE OUNCE SILVER MEDALS

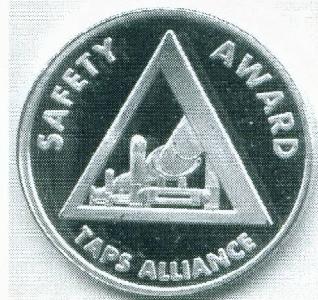
We are offering here an assortment of one ounce silver medals. On most of these, we only have one in stock so a quick phone call or email to reserve the item you want would be advisable.



ANCHORAGE: Anchorage Daily News, 1990, Oxford reverse. **\$25.00**



VALDEZ: Port of the Supertankers, Alaska, the Last Frontier. **\$25.00**



TAPS ALLIANCE (Alaska Pipeline): Safety Award, Price/Ahtna, Alyeska, APJCC. **\$25.00**

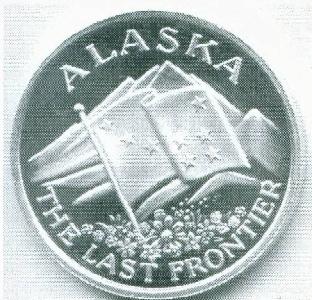


JUNEAU: Juneau Chamber of Commerce, 1985. Alaska's Capital City. **\$25.00**



(FAIRBANKS): Alaskan Independence Party, Joseph E. Vogler (founder). God Bless Alaska. This piece is in a slightly larger diameter - 40mm. **\$25.00**

FOX, AK: Cassiterite Placer, Inc., Fairbanks, Alaska, Alaska silver, Fox, Alaska. **\$25.00**



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